

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

by Josephine Diorio and Angelo Arpaia

Promises! Promises! That's all we ever hear. But do they ever intend to keep them? Most likely not, but this year's Student Council (which consists of President Thomas McManus, Vice President Roger McManus and the Presidential Advisors) John (Buddha) Gellin, Manny Gonzalez, Spencer Colgan, Joseph Vassallo, Angelo Arpaia, and Patrick Santangelo and Class presidents: Martin Brennan (Senior), Luis Reyes (Junior), and Neil Palante (Soph.) is determined to keep them all.)

The job of the Student Council is to respond to the needs of the students.

Its members are the voices of the school. They help with school problems, listen to suggestions and speak up for you, the individual student.

So far their campaign promises have been kept or are in the process of being carried out, for instance, as you can see, the bathrooms have been painted and new mirrors have been installed. Some of the activities they are working on for this year are: A dress down day sometime in October, (monthly dress down days hopefully will be approved by the administration), more telephones, more cafeteria specials (the food?) and charity fund raisers. I know! I know! When they say, "Their working on it." it usually means they're not going to do it, but in this case they really are! As a matter of fact, on the day of this interview they were scheduled to meet with the head of the food department.

BISHOP FORD CHALK
CIRCLE PLAYERS
PRESENTS

"YOU CAN'T TAKE IT
WITH YOU"

Friday and Saturday
December 14th and 15th
8 p.m. — \$4.00 Admission

HIGHPOINT

Bishop Ford Central Catholic High School

500 19th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11215

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HIGHPOINT



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AT LAST FORTE BELLINO SPEAKS

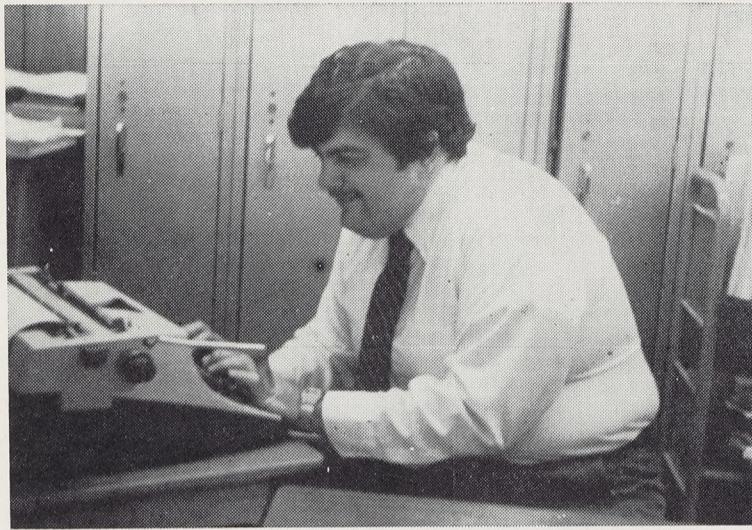
by Chris Razukas

I was a little nervous about interviewing Mr. Forte Bellino, one of our school's ace Social Studies teachers, but when I walked into the Social Studies office, I had all my fears justified. "Yeah, Rozukas was supposed to interview me for Faculty Focus, he is probably off petting squirrels or something, Rozukas, there, there he is!" We settled down for our interview.

Mr. Bellino received his B.A. in History. He then went on to teach. Mr. Bellino had always wanted to teach, he still doesn't know why. He has been educating young minds for 8 years, the last 4 at Bishop Ford. He had graduated from these hallowed halls himself and had always wanted to return. Mr. B says he has "planted roots" and will probably be here for awhile.

Mr. Bellino, aside from teaching, is also a coach here, running our basketball team. He led last year's team to victory in the Freshman City Championship. He enjoys coaching for the interaction: "Watching the students improve" he says, "is rewarding." He is not, contrary to popular opinion, using the school as a springboard to his coaching career. Mr. Bellino devotes most of his free time to sports. He says he has tried every sport, but plays only a few. "I don't do anything that I don't think I'm good at. That's why I gave up golfing, baseball . . ."

Mr. Bellino was born on December 11. He enjoys listening to Rod Stewart, Stevie Nicks, and the Police. He enjoys Clint Eastwood and old Hitchcock movies, his favorite being Dial M for Murder. In closing Mr. B stated, "April to June was the best time in my life, but now my biorhythms are on a downer."



"Mr. Bellino working on his first novel."

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Thomas McManus

This school year at Bishop Ford intends to be one of new beginnings. The student council wishes to work for the students to the best of its power. It can only be successful with the cooperation and participation of the students. The student council is always open for questions and demands. Whether the demand is carried out depends not only upon the student council but also upon the administration.

Ideas have already gone into the works. Bike racks will be put out and be located in the teachers' parking lot. The exact time when this will be done is not definite, but it will be soon.

During the winter we hope to hold a "Pool Party" at St. Francis College. We hope to receive an enthusiastic response to this.

The first dress down day will most probably be the first Friday in October. With the approval of the administration, we hope to have a dress down day every month.

We also intend to hold a "Trivia Pursuit" competition. Representatives from all clubs and sport teams will compete until the top teams are left, then finals will be held. Awards will be given.

One of the major events which will occur this year will be the introduction of our new mascot. This will occur at half time during one of the basketball games. The old falcon will be retired and a new one will take its place.

The new mascot will not just be present at basketball games but will also make appearances at all sports events.

Auditions for the mascot will be held and anyone interested should leave their name and homeroom with Mr. Campanaro. Future information will be sent during homeroom to the auditioning.

The student council is at your service and together we can make it an enjoyable year.

The Editors and Staff of Highpoint invite any questions, comments, or suggestions on articles appearing in our newspaper.

MINISTERS SERVE FORD

This year Bishop Ford has a new senior religion program, run by Brother Justin, called "Student Ministries." Its goal is to promote school-wide involvement in three areas: liturgies, in-school service, and consciousness-raising. Although it originated as a group to help on the junior retreats, the Student Ministries has also branched out in other areas. Now the seniors form different groups, each with one or two chairpeople and separate goals.

One of the group is responsible for the Masses held every morning in the Chapel before school, and the morning prayers heard over the P.A. system. Another group takes care of seasonal Liturgies, including Opening Day, All Soul's Day, and Christmas. Still another group provides the music for the masses, and another called the rap group, is interested in establishing student groups dealing with personal crises. (Some suggestions for this have been A.A., Al-Anon, and a bereavement group.) Other groups will attempt to raise the consciousness of the school, making the students more aware of what's going on in the world. These are only some of the things that are done, and the groups that do them.

Although the seniors are the chairpeople of these groups, they are not supposed to be the whole group. Underclassmen (and women) are encouraged to participate in these worthwhile activities. Brother Justin is already looking to next year when this year's seniors and class will be history and new chairpeople and members will have to be found. If you wish to become involved in any of these activities see Brother Justin in the Religion Department next to the auditorium.

ROAVING REPORTER

If we had space travel now, on which planet would you prefer to live?

"I think I would like to live on Saturn, it's the prettiest planet. It's bright and colorful."

Miss J. Trani

"Right here. It's where the action is."

Vito Lodato 306

"Pluto. It's a Mickey Mouse planet."

Joanne Molinari 308

"Mars, because it's not Earth. But it's the same climate as earth's or almost."

Mr. Raligan

"Honestly, I can't give you an answer. My mind is completely blank. It's been a long day."

Ms. Plunkett

"Mars, because most of the time I'm there anyway."

Mr. Bellino



KARATE CLUB GROWS

by Mr. Rich Flaherty

Recently I've become interested in Japanese Karate (Shotokan Style). When I heard that Mr. Piselli was once again beginning the Karate Club here at Ford I decided to get in some extra work with them.

The club is moderated by Mr. Piselli but most classes are taught by two Tai Kwando (Korean Karate) fourth degree blackbelts, Linda and Nelson. The class consists of approximately twenty Ford students plus Ms. Joan Petraglia and Brother Justin. The workout is extremely strenuous; ten minutes of calisthenics, twenty minutes of stretching, then one hour of instruction, forms, and sparring. You won't turn into Bruce Lee in a week but you will feel more confident, mentally alert, and physically fit.

Classes are held every Wednesday after school in the cafeteria, and on Saturday morning at eleven a.m. in the gym. All you need to begin is patience, a will to learn, and loose, comfortable clothes (sweats or a "gi" preferably). The cost for students is only fifteen dollars per month and this also allows you to visit Nelson's actual school on Fifth Avenue and Seventh Street once a week if you desire. Most karate schools charge between fifty and seventy dollars per month for two hour and a half classes per week; at Ford's club you may attend three hours and a half classes per week for 1/4 the price. If you would like to join the Karate Club simply see Mr. Piselli or come to one of the classes. If you would like to view a lesson you are certainly welcome to watch.

If indeed you are interested in martial arts I feel that you should know several things about its history and philosophy:

1. Karate is designed as a means of defense **only to be used when a person's life is in danger!** It began as a means by which Buddhist Monks could exercise, test their mental and physical discipline, and **only if necessary**, defend themselves from bandits.

2. Karate is an **art**, not a sport, competition was frowned upon by the ancient masters.

3. Promotions in belt color can be earned through our club but belt color is not important. In the beginning belt color was not official; a Monk was given one belt which gradually changed color over years of use from white to yellow and eventually to brown and black. It simply showed approximately how long one had been studying. (Belt colors are white, yellow, green, purple, brown, and black).

4. Concentration is extremely important to a martial arts student. Without concentration your ability and power become virtually useless.

5. In most cases, any Karate teacher who finds that a student is using Karate in an aggressive, "bullylike" way, will dismiss that student from his class.

I sincerely hope that many of you, especially the ladies, will take this opportunity to learn a healthful, useful, and disciplined art. Karate teaches many of the finest qualities in life; respect, discipline, and awareness. You will feel pain because you will be using muscles which have never been strained before but it is a joyous pain of achievement.

Kunichiwa

MS. MOFFET ARRIVES AT FORD

by Brian Coughlan

One of the many bright new faces on the faculty is Miss Patti Moffatt. Miss Moffatt is the new physical education teacher for the girls as well as being the new volleyball and basketball coach. She is also a sophomore health teacher.

Before coming to Ford, Miss Moffatt coached her alumnus, St. Francis College, in girls' volleyball.

When I asked her why after teaching college would she want to come back to the high school level, she answered, "I really enjoy the enthusiasm

and the level of improvement that is so evident here."

Miss Moffatt feels teaching here during the summer at summer school has helped her feel at home while meeting her fellow educators. Miss Moffatt thinks Ford is everything she expected and more. One thing she hopes for is that more girls try out for girls sports here at Ford.

Ford lost a great teacher and coach when Mrs. Schmidt left but gained someone with similar ability, talents, and stamina. We welcome you and wish you a winning season.

SPORTLIGHT: GERARDO LEONARDI

by Mark Belli

Eleven years ago, Gerardo Leonardi joined SC GJA Soccer Club. He showed great ability and went on to join three more teams, O.L.P.H., Brooklyn Falcons and Bishop Ford. The three years he spent at O.L.P.H. he was voted M.V.P. He is the Captain of the Brooklyn Falcons and Bishop Ford. Voted M.V.P. of Ford in his Junior Year he hopes to regain the Brooklyn Champs with the team.

For the past two years, Ford has captured the Brooklyn Champs and in his Sophomore year they took the Brooklyn-Queens.

Gerardo stated, "I have put 100% into Ford Soccer the past years." He would like to go to Adelphi, St. Francis, Hartwick or Duke Colleges. During the summer he competed in Empire State Games and received three scholarships from colleges which he turned down.

Gerardo is a dedicated player with a great concept of the game. Outside of soccer, he is a Senior leader in Pic, plays intermural hockey, basketball and football with an 88% average, he holds a hectic life. His motto is "psyched!" He hopes to be drafted on a team after college and the coach, Mr. Dilgen thinks he's good enough. If not, he'll be running his father's restaurant.

Let's all sit back and watch him get more than 21 goals which he got last year for Ford.

I wish him and the team "Good Luck!" and rock Xaverian.

SING A-LONG

by Laura Allen

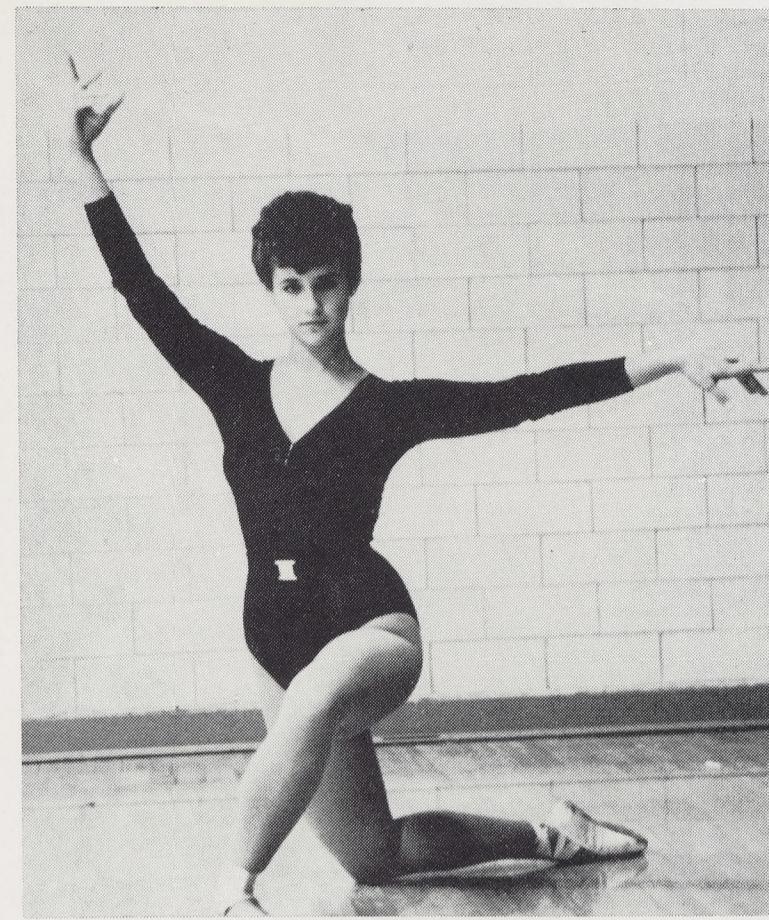
"Please join us in our opening song . . ." These are the words said by Debbie Naldi as the Liturgical Folk Group burst into song. The newly formed group made its debut September 13th and 14th as they led the songs for the liturgies for all the classes.

The club was founded and is moderated by Brother Justin Smith along with student co-chairpersons Susan Trukawinski and Roger McManus. This group wishes to add a new atmosphere to the masses here at Ford. "Hoping through song to develop the inner-growth of the people of our Bishop Ford community is our goal," commented Roger McManus.

The club members include: Helen Anagnostakos, Gary Aronsen, Andrew Cimino, Spencer Colgon, Mary Colon, John Gelin, Fady Hayck, Martina Mercaldo, Karen O'Connor, Tom McManus, Monica Naldi, Laura Allen, Josephine Diorio, Janet Ketelsen, Mike Hardman, Chris Razukas, Lauri Sponholz, Barbra Trukawinski, and Debbie Naldi.

In the future the Liturgical Folk Group is planning to sing at other masses including All Souls Day and Easter. If you would like to join this group please contact Brother Justin, Roger McManus or Susan Trukawinski.

SHE'S DANCING



"Maria Piccardi"

HER WAY TO THE TOP

by Josephine Halkias

People have a saying about "the roots going deep," to show how serious this affects our development. It is time that our doing things and our skills today, are yesterday's habits and hobbies.

It goes many years back when Maria was still a three year old infant that she was introduced to the exciting world of dancing and music.

"Jumping around" was Maria's first exposure to dancing and her first lesson!

Today, Maria Piccardi, a sophomore at Bishop Ford High School, is still with the "old habit" which turns out to have become an outstanding skill. (That's not kid stuff anymore).

For the last thirteen years Maria's schedule consisted of; ballet, tap, jazz, toe and flamenco dancing. She has choreographed at St. Ephrem's festivals for five years.

Maria spent her summer at Darvash Dance Studios in Manhattan three days a week, one and a half hours a day. She also danced in the Nutcracker and West Side Story with students from Darvash and Joffrey in addition to recital performances.

Now, Maria teaches private lessons at home and also teaches classes on Saturdays from 12-6 at Vicki's Dance Studio.

Maria's first habit and love became a way of life and a respectable profession.

She says "I've had to make sacrifices along the way but there's nothing like a feeling of meeting the goals I've made for myself when I dance."

Maria is considering furthering her studies in dance at Julliard High School. From there she plans to major in dance at Julliard College.

What do Maria's parents say? Mom and Dad say "It's a tough life and there are a lot of sacrifices to be a dancer, if you want it bad enough then you should pursue it." They are proud of their daughter's accomplishments.

Everyone can feel Maria's vibrations and, as we see her dream becoming fulfilled we can't help but feel a great sense of pride.

The staff of Highpoint and the entire Bishop Ford community would like to congratulate both the Varsity Soccer Team and the Freshmen Track Team. The Soccer Team captured the Brooklyn Championship for the third year in a row while the Track Team triumphed over Brooklyn for their Tenth consecutive title.